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OMCT
OPERATING THE SOS-TORTURE NETWORK

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WORLD ORGANIZATION AGAINST TORTURE
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Case IDN/TMP 190499

The International Secretariat of OMCT requests your urgent intervention in the following situation in **East Timor/Indonesia.**

Brief description of the situation

The International Secretariat of OMCT has been informed by several reliable sources of attacks against civilian population in East Timor.

According to the information, after a pro-integration rally (supporting continued integration with Indonesia) had finished outside the Governor's palace, paramilitary groups launched attacks on pro-independence activists in Dili, burning houses, shooting into the air, and killing people. It has been reported that between the 17th and the 18th of April 1999, at least 20 persons were killed in Dili, capital of East Timor.

In one attack, reportedly twelve people (although another source has reported eight people) were killed when one paramilitary group opened fire and threw rocks into the house of the pro-independence politician Mr. **Manuel Carrascalao**, brother of a former East Timor governor. In this house, over 170 refugees (mainly women and children), fleeing from earlier violence, were being sheltered. One son of Mr. Carracalao, **Manuelito**, aged 18, was reportedly stabbed to death. Mr. Manuel Carrascalao and his daughter **Chris** are now taking refuge at the home of Bishop Belo.

While the attacks took place, it is alleged that no action was taken whatsoever by the authorities.

It has been further reported that Mario Carrascalao, President Habibie's Special Adviser on East Timor, in Jakarta, has « gone to a safe place » following the arrival from Dili of 150 armed militiamen who have sworn to assassinate him.

In addition, it is alleged that some members of the family of Xanana Gusmao (the freed leader of the armed resistance movement fighting for idependence in East Timor) are being targeted by paramilitary groups. His parents, his sister, Armandina, and his brother-in-law may be in grave danger.

The International Secretariat of OMCT is gravely concerned by the escalation of violence in East Timor, in particular, human rights violations perpetrated by paramilitary groups, believed to be supported, armed and trained by the Indonesian military.

On 12 April 1999, the International Secretariat reported that between 25 and 45 people were killed in the church of Liquica where as many as 2000 civilians were seeking refuge from intimidation and violence at the hands of paramilitary groups in neighboring districts, and a further 5 civilians were killed at a priest's residence in the town. At least 8 were injured and another purportedly subjected to torture in the sub-district of Maurara and Mauboke in East Timor. The attacks were carried out by paramilitary groups purportedly supported by the military (see Appeal Case IDN/TMP 120499).

These attacks seem to be related to efforts by some members of the Indonesian military to sabotage a possible future peace accord with East Timor pro-independence rebels as well as the United Nations plan to hold a ballot in July to determine whether the East Timor people want autonomy status or complete independence

Action requested

Please write to the Indonesian authorities urging them to :

i. guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of all East Timor people, particularly Manuel Carrascalao, his family, Mario Carrascalao and the members of Xanana Gusmao's family ;

ii. guarantee an impartial and exhaustive inquiry into the aforementioned incidents, including the links between the military, police and paramilitary groups, identify those responsible, bring them to trial, and apply the penal, civil, and/or administrative sanctions provided by law;

iii. provide immediate, adequate and free medical care to all injured people and ensure to them as well as to the families of the killed people adequate restitution, compensation, and rehabilitation ;

iv. take immediate measures to disarm all paramilitary groups in East Timor and ensure that those responsible be brought to trial and sanctioned in accordance with national laws international human rights standards ;

v. take all adequate measures to guarantee the non-repetition of these human rights violations ;

vi. ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with national laws and international human rights standards;

Addresses

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Resort Military Command (KOREM), Colonel Tono Suratman, Markas KOREM 164/Wiradharma Dili, East Timor, Faxes: +62 390 21 624 20

Military Commander Region IX/Udayana (includes East Timor), General Syahrir MS Pangdam IX/Udayana, Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana, Denpasar, Bali INDONESIA, Telephone: +62 361 228 095

Copies to :

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ali Alatas S.H, Menteri Luar Negeri, Jl. Medan Taman Pejambon No. 6 Jakarta, INDONESIA, Faxes: +62 21 360 541 / 360 517 / 380 5511 / 345 7782 / 724 5354

Diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your country

Geneva, April 19 1999

Kindly inform the International Secretariat of any action undertaken quoting the code of this appeal in your reply